

The Love Letters of Hamon

"Little Pet," "Kitten," and "The Sweetest Person On Earth," Were Terms He Used When Addressing His Sweetheart in "the Springtime" of Their Love Affair.

By B. A. BRIDGEWATER.

ARDMORE, March 15.—An attempt by the defense to introduce the love letters of Clara Smith Hamon as evidence in this afternoon met determined opposition by Attorney General Freeling and after lengthy arguments by counsel with the jury excused from the courtroom. Judge Champion announced that he would make a ruling tomorrow morning after being cited decisions from the Oklahoma supreme court.

If a total of more than 200 letters, written from 1913 or 1914 to 1917, the defense is seeking to present about 40 to the jury. While the judge did not officially rule on the matter he indicated that his belief was that only those letters written after the date of the contract, offered in evidence by the state yesterday, and showing an agreed "separation" of the relations between Hamon and Clara, would be offered. These, he said, might be acceptable on the theory of the defense that they showed the reason Clara resumed her relations with the oil king was that he persistently begged her to come back to him and told her he could not live without her. He did not say definitely that these could be admitted but indicated they would unless he was cited by the Oklahoma supreme court ruling to the contrary.

Attorney General Freeling consistently informed the court that he would show these letters and said he would almost be willing to withdraw from the case if the defense would show "one line to the contrary" from an opinion of the Oklahoma supreme court. The attorney general contended that the letters could not be admitted, because they were hearsay evidence and the writer, who is dead, could not be present in court to explain them or be subjected to cross examination on their contents.

These letters are included in the accompanying feature story by Miss Mildred Morris.

BY MILDRED MORRIS

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ARDMORE, March 15.—"Darling, don't you understand that I love you dearly, that my life is wrapped up in you and that I am only happy when with you," wrote Jake Hamon in his love letters to Clara Smith Hamon now on trial in district court here charged with his murder.

"Little pet," "Kitten" and "The sweetest little person on earth" were the oil king's favorite terms of endearment for the girl who later shared his career and faces a jury in the little courthouse here, charged with his death.

These letters will be introduced in Clara Smith Hamon's trial by the defense.

Most of them were written between 1914 and 1916 when the accused woman was attending Lexington College in Kentucky at Hamon's expense and some of the most endearing ones were penned after the girl had signed the contract presented in evidence yesterday by the state in which she agreed to drop out of the oil king's life on the payment of \$1 and other considerations. The letters show that Hamon was madly in love with the accused woman and his thoughts centered on her instead of the wife who sits in the courtroom.

In one letter Hamon told of his wife's arrival in Ardmore and declares she came to kill both him and the girl.

"Mrs. H. came up from Fort Worth Sunday night," he said in this letter. "The night clerk at the hotel turned her into my room. She found your hat and then the maid told everything that she knew and later me."

"She was trying to have us both arrested for adultery. Had employed old Judge Brown of Ardmore. Had been to the bank and talking. Sent for Mr. and Mrs. Bryan. Had them talk to her. Said she had come over here to kill both you and me."

"She had been told by some one that you were still in Ardmore and was not going away."

"She moved in the parlor bedroom and stayed two days. I have had her all of a time. Never was embarrassed like this before in my life. I wished several times that the train which brought me back had been wrecked and that I had never got here."

"I will never spend any time in Ardmore from now on. I was glad you were not there to take the punishment I had to."

"Hamon, empire builder and political czar, twenty years older than the girl was in constant fear that she would fall in love with a younger man, according to his love letters."

In one letter he wrote:

"I have no one with me in the Ardmore office. I know where there is one little person who would love to take charge there quick and would me and when I left Ardmore to go right along with me."

"You know what you must do when you come or we will be both unhappy. Make up your mind calmly and I will do everything to help you possible for me to do."

"If I were younger and better looking it would not be so bad for you but I cannot help my age or looks."

"When I ask the little person to come what will she tell her mother?"

In another letter he mentions his nephew Frank, who later went through a marriage ceremony with the accused woman to give her the Hamon name and thus protect the lovers from scandal.

The "Myrtle" mentioned in one letter is Clara Smith Hamon's sister, Mrs. Van Allen Hamon, of Los Angeles, Cal. It was:

"I just received your letter. Was very pleased you expressed your sentiments towards me."

"Darling you know you are the best and only little person and that I love you only."

"I liked the two girls that I took to dinner with us very much. Did not remember their names. Don't know where they live. Never expect to see them again unless you

me. Don't get discouraged. Everything will be all right and we will always love each other. I will love you forever and truly want you to be with me."

At another time he wrote:

"You will be my little kitten always, won't you, pet? I love you dearly and will always love you and you alone, my little girl."

In another letter he announced he was going to make her his "business confidant."

"Sweetheart," he wrote, "I know you are getting tired of hearing all my troubles but I have no one else to tell them to. That is the reason I punish the little girl with my troubles. In time I am going to make you my business confidant and see if you cannot help me run my business. I come with real love for the sweetest little person on earth."

In another letter he asks her "to live up to my moral standard."

"Be square with me always. You can live up to my moral standard if you try. Never tell me an untruth and don't deceive me under any circumstances."

He wrote August 24, 1915:

"You complain about me traveling all over the country. I did not do that while you were here. Dear, because you are not here in the reason I travel, a worn, tired, discontented man. Nobody really cares where I am or what I do."

"Darling, turn back to me. I want me to, I would like to have you with me tonight to cheer me up and maybe I could induce you to get me a bit."

In other letters he declared he was going to leave Ardmore "for good."

"We never could be happy here

again," he wrote, "and yet we have done nothing wrong between us."

At another time he wrote:

"Was so sorry to hear of your people's troubles. I have done everything in the matter I could do. I assure you though I am still trying. Only one thing will settle the matter. That is for me to say that I do not love you and will give you up. This I will never do."

In this letter he offered to send her sister to school and pay the expenses of her mother if she wished to accompany the girl.

In another letter he told her not to pay any attention to "my selfish idea of wanting you always in my business."

In a letter dated July 17, 1915, he asked her to come to Ardmore.

"If you will love me just a little you will know better to do what I want," he wrote, "for Pet, I want you fat and strong and your health to be perfect so, darling, be careful of yourself and don't hurt yourself with study."

Further discussing her studies he wrote:

"You do just what you want about your studies. I don't care so much about music as you know. I want to have you with me all the time, only the office may fire you in life, so wait your sweet little self."

Sign for Five Years.

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News of Sapulpa

Special to The World

SAPULPA, March 15.—Another love triangle has resulted in the probable fatal shooting of one negro woman, another negro woman is in jail, and the police are searching for the man in the case. Lucy Peck, 22-year-old negro woman, was shot in the head and probably fatally wounded about midnight Monday at the Peck woman's home by Ella Mays, another negro woman, who had charged that her husband was having improper relations with the Peck woman. Now the Peck woman is in the hospital here with little hope held for her recovery, the Mays woman is in jail and Ella Mays, her husband, is a fugitive from the police.

Once before the two women came to blows over Lige Mays. At a local theater the Mays woman encountered the Peck woman and her husband and proceeded to attack, later a thrashing to her rival in love.

Appendicitis Proves Fatal.

Mrs. Jessie Higgins, 41 years old, died this morning following an operation for appendicitis. Funeral services will be held Thursday afternoon at the First Methodist church. Mrs. Higgins has resided here for a number of years and was well known. She is survived by her husband.

Not Considered Serious.

J. W. Barnard, charged with assault to kill in connection with the stabbing at Fifth and Main streets last Saturday night of Harold Greene, pleaded not guilty at his arraignment Monday morning before Justice S. C. Maxey and was released on bond of \$1,000 for preliminary hearing March 25.

H. H. Greene, father of the wounded man, who signed the complaint, declared Monday that his son was sitting at a table in a cafe after some words with Barnard, and that the latter without warning stepped behind Greene and struck the latter in the neck with an open pocket knife.

Propped up to his bed at the Tulsa hospital last night, Greene told his version of the affair. He said that he had not intended filling charges against Barnard, and wanted to let the affair drop, but that his friends had taken matters into their own hands.

"I had started home," Greene said, "and met Barnard near Fourth and Boston. We had some words, and Barnard at one time pulled off his coat. But we finally parted without coming to blows. Barnard had been drinking, and so had I."

"I went on to the Kansas City waffle house, and later Barnard came in and reopened the argument. I told him that if he was looking for trouble, to come outside. He you one-half. Phone O-8115.—Adv.

Tulsa Undertaking Co., can save you one-half. Phone O-8115.—Adv.

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